

U.S. isn't laughing about funny money from color copiers

By Roger Boye

The U. S. Secret Service has seized \$1 million worth of counterfeit "greenbacks" produced on a color photocopier, the largest such "take" so far.

Government agents working under cover confiscated the funny money in Phoenix last month from a man who allegedly tried to trade it for marijuana. The notes were duplicated on bond paper in denominations of \$10, \$50 and \$100.

By the early 1990s Treasury officials are expected to add microprinting and other anti-counterfeiting devices to Federal Reserve notes to make them more difficult to duplicate accurately on color copiers. The government had planned to make the changes in 1987, but ongoing technical problems have delayed the debut.

Currency experts fear that thousands of otherwise law-abiding Americans will attempt to counterfeit paper money on color copiers as the machines become more widely available. By the year 2005 color copiers could be as common in the workplace as black-and-white machines are today.



Krause Publications has released the 16th annual edition of "Standard Catalog of World Coins" by Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler, a single-volume reference that's nearly as large as the Chicago telephone book.

The new version evaluates all coins produced in the world since 1801 and includes about 43,000 photographs to ease coin identification. The authors list mintage totals, metal composition and retail price informa-

tion—in up to four condition categories—for each coin.

The 1,856-page tome is one of the most widely used books in the hobby, well worth the \$34.95 price. To order, call a local coin shop or write to Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990 (add \$2.50 for shipping when buying from Krause).

Meanwhile, the country's most prolific hobby publisher—Bowers and Merena Galleries—has issued a new reference on encased postage stamps, a coin substitute that flourished during the Civil War.

Merchants placed postage stamps in brass discs to use when making change during the war because most government coins disappeared from circulation, the victim of widespread hoarding. Each disc's back side contained an advertisement

from the merchant.

The 191-page book by Michael J. Hodder and Q. David Bowers describes the development of such emergency money and evaluates 237 varieties. For a copy of "The Standard Catalogue of Encased Postage Stamps," send \$19.95 plus \$2 postage to Bowers and Merena, Box 1224, Wolfeboro, N. H. 03894.



Is it better to invest in silver bars or bullion coins? What determines the price of silver? Why is silver a "precious metal"?

Answers are in "Your Introduction to Investing in Silver." For a free copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Silver Information Center, Suite 101, 1026 16th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.